

I strongly oppose the proposal for an automatic upgrade. Enough has already been done to "dumb down" the quality of the licensing levels and the general knowledge required to require amateurs to be more than just appliance operators. Any amateur with a desire to upgrade can do so with 20 year's experience. If they do not, they should not be given an achievement they neither worked for nor requested. The Amateur community is weakened by diluting the achievements of past generations of fellow Hams who worked for their upgrades by giving upgrades to the unqualified.

The trend to giving achievement awards when none have been earned serves only to weaken the community overall by adding unqualified members under the guise of increased public service.

The proposal is for volume over quality and should be rejected.

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